

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-15 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2246

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUSS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV SOFIA SPEECH

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

REF: SOFIA 1253

1. BREZHNEV, IN HIS SEPTEMBER 19 SPEECH IN SOFIA, TAKES ON
THE ISSUE OF LINKAGE BETWEEN CSCE BASKETS ONE AND THREE IN A
MORE DIRECT WAY THAN HE HAS BEFORE. HIS REMARKS AGAINST
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WESTERN PRESSURE FOR CONCESSIONS, AGAINST "DIPLOMATIC

BARTERING," AND AGAINST EMPHASIZING PARTICULAR QUESTIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF CONFERENCE'S PRINCIPAL AIMS ARE CLEARLY GEARED TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE SOVIET NEGOTIATORS AT GENEVA ARE PREPARING TO FACE.

2. THE CONSISTENT SOVIET EMPHASIS ON SECURITY ISSUES OF BASKET ONE IS EVIDENT IN BREZHNEV'S ADMONITION TO "OTHERS" THAT "BROAD AND FRUITFUL DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS AND THE EFFECTIVE SOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS ARE POSSIBLE ONLY IF THE THREAT OF WAR IS ELIMINATED." AT THE SAME TIME THE MORE REASONABLE APPROACH TO CONTACTS FIRST OUTLINED IN THE ALMA ATA SPEECH AUGUST 15 IS EVIDENT IN HIS CONCESSION IN SOFIA THAT HUMANITARIAN ITEMS BELONG IN THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE (THOUGH IN AN "APPROPRIATE PLACE"). I.N. ZEMSKOV, SECRETARY GENERAL OF MFA, RECENTLY COMMENTED TO US THAT ALL FOUR BASKETS AT CSCE ARE IMPORTANT BUT THAT THE CENTRAL OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE IS SECURITY.

3. IN WHAT WAS GENERALLY A BALANCED SPEECH, BREZHNEV NEVERTHELESS SPOKE WITH SOME ASPERITY ABOUT THE NEED FOR UNSWERVING IMPLEMENTATION OF TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS "WITHOUT ANY SLEIGHT-OF-HAND AND AMBIGUOUS MANUEVERS." WE SUSPECT A TWIN TARGET HERE: THE U.S. OVER THE MFN COMMITMENT AND THE FRG OVER BERLIN. AND HIS REFERENCE TO FORCES IN WESTERN EUROPE "WHICH SEEK TO QUESTION ONE OR ANOTHER LINK IN THE SYSTEM OF TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS CREATED RECENTLY" MAY FORESHADOW MORE INTENSE SOVIET PRESS PLAY OF ALLEGED FRG VIOLATIONS OF THE BERLIN AGREEMENT.

4. WE HAVE NO READY EXPLANATION FOR APPARENT SHORT NOTICE FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO SOFIA. IT DOES FIT IN WITH CURRENT CAMPAIGN HERE TO KEEP BREZHNEV'S NAME IN THE PAPERS. WE ARE ALSO STRUCK BY FULSOME NATURE OF BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL PRAISE FOR ZHIVKOV ("AUTHORITATIVE LEADER, TRUE SON OF BULGARIAN PEOPLE, OUTSTANDING FIGURE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, OUR GOOD FRIEND AND COMRADE-IN-ARMS"), AND WONDER WHETHER VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN AT LEAST PARTLY INSPIRED BY ZHIVKOV'S NEEDS.

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